



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF FOOD.

I wish to take an agricultural paper, which, on the subject of farming, will, first, tell me something I do not know, (a thing easily done;) and second, something that is worth knowing.

Can you print in the *Farmer*, a table, showing the comparative value, or amount of nutritious matter contained in all the different kinds of food given to cattle, taking, as a standard, 100 lbs. of good hay, or any one kind of hay, with the comparative value of other kinds; also the cost of beef when hay is \$10 per ton; pork with corn at \$1 per bushel at the barn; and what a farmer could afford to pay for the different kinds of manure to keep up the fertility of the farm when it is more profitable to sell the hay. I think a table of this kind, serving as a standard for the farmer to refer to, with the prices at the farm, would assist him in disposing of his produce to the best advantage.

J. Union, April 2, 1860.

Nor. Our paper is published as a medium of communication between farmers, on subjects connected with their business—a kind of speaking trumpet, through which they can hail each other at a distance, and each give knowledge to each. If our friend J. has obtained knowledge, by experiment or observation, on the subject he refers to, there are thousands of his brother farmers who will be right glad to hear from him. On the other hand, if there are any others who have done so, he will be right glad to hear from them, either on account of the confirmation of his knowledge previously obtained, or on account of the new light which they may give him.

As regards tables of the comparative nutritious qualities of the different kinds of cattle feed, taking good hay as the standard, we have, in almost every volume, published one of the kind. We will do it again some time. For the present we will copy, for his edification, a very good communication from the *Rural American*, in which our friend will find some valuable suggestions on one of his topics.

We would suggest to him, however, that these comparative tables must, from the nature of the case, be approximations only to facts. Exact certainty in such matters is impossible. The chemist, in his analysis, may tell, to a single grain, how much there is of starch, or gum, or gluten, &c., in each, and so far it is a very good guide; but that they will prove to be as exact in their application to cattle feeding is not certain. The different constitutions, appetites and physical conditions of cattle vary so much that the facts of the chemist can only be a general guide. So, also, will it be in the cost of making beef and pork, for the same reasons.

Experiment after experiment has been made with reference to bringing out reliable facts as to the cost, but after all, the facts thus elicited can be used only as generalities, and not as exact certainties. This arises from the nature of the case. For instance, the farmer has to operate with elements in combination with each other in different forms and substance, the exact amount and condition of each element cannot be seen, or felt, or measured by his senses, and he must, therefore, apply them according to general rules; they may produce a result exactly according to his calculations, or they may fall short, or they may over-run. Not so with a manufacturer of cotton or woolen. He has a machine that, by a given power and arrangement makes so many revolutions in a minute to a mathematical certainty. He can weigh out his feed or raw material and predict, with an unerring mathematical calculation how long a thread will be made, how much twist it will have, how much cloth it will make and what will be the exact cost of that cloth per yard or per pound. Everything is open and tangible. He can see and weigh and measure and count as he goes along. Here lies the difference in the two callings.

In regard to the cost of making pork—the late Henry Coleman of Massachusetts instituted many experiments to ascertain the facts. He found that, when corn could be bought for 67 cents per bushel, and the hogs fed on nothing else, his pork cost him 6 cents per pound. But this you see is not certain in all cases. Some corn at the same price may be a third better than other corn appearing, to the eye, equally as good. Hogs also vary in thriftiness and the power of secreting and assimilating the fatty matter from corn. It is right to try to be exact, but it will not do to expect perfect certainty in these things; but here is the article referred to above:—

"As in most parts of the Northern States, the farmer is compelled to keep his stock upon dried, or cured food for nearly half of the entire year, it becomes one of the most important of all questions in farming—what are the cheapest and best kinds of food for the subsistence of domestic animals through this long and costly period?

In the list of articles used for this purpose, meadow hay ranks foremost, as being the most extensively used, as well as the most important every way. Yet auxiliaries are needed, not only because the hay crop is often greatly diminished by drouth, &c., but because experiments have taught us that we may, at much less expense, by a variety and change of food, add greatly to the health, comfort, and thrift of the animal. Hence an examination and comparison of the different substances which are in general use becomes a matter of considerable importance. We will name for such comparison a few of those articles most common, viz: carrots, ruta-bagas, beets, straw, grain, &c. The propriety of the use of these may be judged with tolerable correctness by taking their respective nutritive values, together with the cost of raising, and comparing those with hay. The nutritive values of the roots named in the following table we have deduced from the result of the actual experiments of a considerable number of distinguished agricultu-

rists. The figures denote the number of pounds of each, needed to equal 100 pounds of hay:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Carrots | 276 |
| Ruta-Bagas | 300 |
| Mangel-wurtzel | 317 |
| Potatoes | 201 |
| Common turnips | 404 |

It will be seen by this table that potatoes are the most nutritious, carrots next; ruta-bagas and mangel-wurtzel are nearly equal, while the common turnips are far behind the rest.

Now for the cost of raising. The same fertility of soil per acre will give about 250 bushels of potatoes, 500 bushels of carrots, 600 of ruta-bagas, and 700 bushels of mangel-wurtzel. This is a rough estimate, though probably not far from right. The cost of seed and planting is greater for the potatoes than the other crops; but the after culture is enough less to make the expense of raising an acre of each nearly equal. The cheapness of seed and ease of sowing are in favor of the ruta-bagas, but on cloddy soils this advantage is more than balanced by danger from the turnip fly.

It is understood, as a matter of course, that in these estimates the best culture is to be given—that is, all the roots but the potatoes are sown in drills, from two to two and a half feet apart, not more—that they are hoed as soon as they are up or before two inches high. This greatly reduces the labor, and produces a rapid and vigorous growth. Clean, well-tilled, and fertile land should be selected for them, and not rich, waste land, loaded with the seeds of millions of weeds which, without a great deal of hoeing and weeding, get the ascendancy and choke down the young crop.

Taking all these facts into account, it will be perceived that carrots, ruta-bagas, and mangel-wurtzel are nearly on equal grounds as to merits. But the far greater avidity with which hogs will eat carrots, the excellent butter which results from their use when fed to cows, and the little injury they receive from frost, even when allowed to winter in the ground where they grew give them eminently the preference.

We will now compare their cheapness with hay. A ton of hay, according to the experiments already mentioned, is equal to 5,500 lbs. of carrots, which, at 60 pounds to the bushel, would be 91 bushels. One acre of carrots, or 500 bushels, would be equal to 54 tons of hay. According to our own experience, such a crop may be easily raised and harvested for \$15, which would place the carrots as far cheaper food than hay, if the hay was only \$3 a ton. But the superiority of the condition of hogs and cattle, when fed freely on carrots, is an additional advantage.

Straw. The following table shows the comparative nutritive properties of straw by indicating the number of pounds needed to equal 100 pounds of hay. It must be observed, however, that these results will vary greatly with the ripeness or freshness of the straw, and other circumstances with its growth or condition:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| New wheat straw | 272 |
| " " | 166 |
| " " | 167 |
| " " | 167 |

But as the quantity of straw is wholly dependent on the quantity of grain raised, and is, in fact, only a secondary crop; the amount which each farmer possesses can only be controlled by economy in saving what he has, which cattle will eat freely if mixed with hay and chopped, or alone, unchopped, if well salted. There is, however, another important item of cheap and nutritious food, in the shape of cornstalks, sown for fodder.

The value of common cornstalks, raised for the grain, depends greatly on the quality, and the amount of which cattle can consume without refuse, depending on the size of the stalks, variety of corn, &c. But when corn is sown thickly for fodder alone, all is consumed, and a ton is probably fully equal to a ton of hay. Five tons at least may be raised on an acre of ordinary fertility—say as follows:—Plow and harrow as usual; furrow one way two and a half feet apart; sow three bushels of corn to the acre along these furrows; cross furrows to cover the corn; pass the cultivator two or three times along the rows, but not hoe them; and mow with scythes; dry and draw in. The whole expense, including interest on the land, need not be more than \$12. Now reckon the cornstalks, which are more palatable to cattle than hay, at not more than \$2.50 per ton. There is no exaggeration about this; but it is the result of repeated trials.

The difficulty of keeping and feeding roots through the winter is made an objection to their general use. But this objection will immediately disappear on the construction of a good root cellar, close at hand. The farmer must have a good barn for his hay—why not an equally good store room for his roots?

Objection second is, that animals do not relish roots, or will not eat them, or that it is hard to teach them to do so. This difficulty may be obviated in various ways. Cattle scarcely ever refuse roots of any kind. Horses and sheep reject them at first; but perseverance, short allowance, or chopping them up fine and mixing with meal, and diminishing the quantity of meal will shortly do the work. We have known old horses totally refuse ruta-bagas at first, but afterwards take down whole ones with great avidity; and a neighbor regularly winters his store hogs mainly upon them without cooking them.

The comparison of grain with hay according to the above mentioned experiments, is as follows:

| | |
|--------|----|
| Corn | 52 |
| Wheat | 53 |
| Oats | 77 |
| Barley | 53 |
| Peas | 47 |
| Rye | 60 |

Eighteen bushels of corn, therefore, will be equal to half a ton of hay. The farmer can judge for himself, whether a loss or a gain would result from a free or stinted use of this grain. He can also apply the same rule to the other kinds of grain.

On reviewing these estimates it will be perceived that the greatest loss which the farmer usually sustains is from the neglect of a more free cultivation of root crops and cornstalks for fodder. An abundance of roots at hand would enable the farmer to save one-half of the hay usually fed to cattle, or one-quarter of the whole cost of feeding them. An equal saving would result from the use of cornstalk fodder. Taking

then, these two articles together, and not forgetting the increased amount of butter and milk, and the improved condition of the animals, it is probable that one-half the expense of wintering stock would be saved by the general adoption of this improved system.

Making due allowance for the difficulties of introducing such a system in poor soils and unfavorable localities, by calling the gain only one-quarter, I ask the curious and investigating to give me the total gain over the general system of wintering stock on hay, straw, &c.

The saving which I have made myself, convinces me that these estimates are very moderate, and that the conclusion arrived at is not mere speculation, but a positive fact."

SOAKING SEED CORN.

It is a custom among some farmers to put their seed corn and other seeds, that they are about to sow or plant, into some sort of steep or liquid, for the double purpose of hastening the sprouting or germination of the seeds and also of rendering them unpalatable to worms, which, unless prevented in some such way, are sometimes apt to destroy them.

This custom is of very ancient date, and has been found beneficial. Various liquids have been found good for this purpose—solutions of nitre (saltpetre), copperas, &c. A few years ago, a solution of the carbonate of ammonia was highly recommended as a steep for wheat and other grain. More recently, a solution of chloride of lime has been successfully used as a steep for promoting the germination of Indian corn. We copy from the *Prairie Farmer* the following article. The amount of water to a pound of the lime is not mentioned, but the solution should be weak rather than strong:

"Last year, Dr. Chamberlain of this place, made some practical experiments with chloride of lime, and although he claimed nothing more than the application of a well-known principle, he demonstrated the fact that nearly half the time might be saved in germinating the seed by the use of chloride of lime.

Not satisfied with the success of last year, the doctor is again in the field of experiment. In his office he has four boxes: in the first corn placed without soaking, and the seed not germinated; in the second, the seed was soaked in warm water, which has just commenced to germinate; in the third, it was soaked in a solution of chloride of lime, and green blades are just peeping from the ground; in the fourth, it was soaked in a solution of chloride of lime and copperas, in equal parts, and the blades are now nearly three inches above the ground. All the seeds were planted at the same time, in the same quality of soil, and taken from the same ear. The boxes have all had an equal share of heat and light, neither allowed any advantage over the other.

This experiment should attract the attention of farmers. We conclude from four to six weeks may be saved by the use of chloride of lime and copperas, which is a matter of no ordinary moment when we reflect that a delay in the germination of the seed of two weeks frequently places the crop within the reach of the frost in the fall.

Another fact of some importance may also be mentioned: The copperas used in soaking, will prevent the birds, squirrels, worms, &c., from eating the seeds.

Dr. Chamberlain assures us that one pound of chloride of lime and one pound of copperas, in water, will soak enough seed for twenty acres. The cost will not be over twenty-five cents. Every farmer could afford to make the experiment even if he should fail to derive any benefit from it."

MAINE STATE AG. SOCIETY.

The Trustees of the Maine State Agricultural Society have decided to hold the next Exhibition and Fair of the Society in Portland. It will commence on the last Tuesday of September next, and continue four days. The citizens of Portland, and the city government, came forward with characteristic energy and liberality, and offered advantages, as it regards grounds, halls, police, &c., which will very essentially aid the Society in carrying out the programme of the Trustees.

The Schedule of Premiums and the List of Awarding Committees were made out at a previous meeting, and will soon be put to press and be ready for general distribution. Everything, thus far, looks prosperous, and if Providence should favor us with good weather, the farmers and men of Maine will at the time give another grand demonstration of their progress in the industrial arts of life.

Be it in mind, and get ready to do your part promptly in the peaceful strife of useful improvement.

MINERAL.

The mineral substance left at our office is sulphur of iron, or pyrites, a combination of sulphur and iron. It is of no practical value unless it be found in quantities sufficiently large to be manufactured into copperas, which is done by pounding it fine, and wetting it, and exposing it for a time to the air. The sulphur absorbs oxygen from the atmosphere, and becomes sulphuric acid; this dissolves the iron, and forms sulphate of iron (copperas). It is then leached in the same manner as wood ashes are, and the liquor evaporated, by which the copperas is crystallized.

NORMAN FRENCH HORSE.

Mr. Editor:—In the *Maine Farmer* of the 26th inst., you state that Mr. Monagle (should it not be Mr. McMonagle?) purchased in this State a Messenger stallion.

Mr. McMonagle bought, in Dexter, a four-year-old stallion, sired by the Crockett Messenger, or Maine, so called. The dam was a very valuable, large-sized mare, (belonging to Mr. Eos Dunham of Corinna,) whose sire was a Norman French horse, viz., the French Tiger, owned by us.

Not intending to depreciate the Messenger sire—a very valuable sharp-going and fast horse—we think it correct to say, that the above-mentioned dam and her stock, it is very apparent that for a large share of those qualities that took the eye of Mr. McMonagle, the colt was indebted to his Norman French grand sire.

Yours, truly,
SHEPHERD CUSEMAN & Co.
Dexter, April 30th, 1860.

For the Maine Farmer.
FARM NOTES.

Expecting to spend the summer in travelling in the counties of Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Aroostook, I purpose to give the readers of the *Farmer* occasional pen and ink sketches of some of the farms I may see on my routes. I commence with the

HON. WM. C. HAMMATT.

This gentleman, who is President of the Maine Agricultural Society, lives in Howland, a small town at the mouth of Piscataquis river, about thirty miles north of Bangor. Mr. Hammatt's farm is four miles above the entrance of the Piscataquis into the Penobscot, on the north side of the river, and consists of four hundred acres of improved land, one hundred of which is interval. He came hither in 1824, from Plymouth, Mass. The whole country hereabouts was then a wilderness, and his farm was covered with a dense and heavy growth of hemlock, elm, maple, &c. With indomitable perseverance and industry, he has cleared away the forests, and made one of the most beautiful farms in the State.

The interval, in point of fertility, is equal to the best interval land in this State, producing large crops with but little manure, being frequently overflooded, thus renovating and fertilizing itself. The upland is mainly free from stone, of a gravelly texture, upon a porous subsoil, well adapted to the growth of corn, and other cultivated crops.

This farm cuts on an average annually about one hundred and twenty-five tons of hay, and raises large quantities of grain. In 1856, 3000 bushels were harvested. Mr. Hammatt has about fifty head of cattle, mostly Durham short horns, and some 100 sheep. He works no oxen on his farm, but does his work entirely with horses. He considers these much the most economical—raising oxen only for the market, which he disposes of as soon as they are saleable.

He tills one hundred acres, much of it interval, which is very productive of every description of crops.

Mr. Hammatt has an eye to beauty and embellishment as well as profit. The ravines and run-ways upon his intervals, and the grounds around his buildings are set with ornamental trees, which add a great deal of beauty to his farm. He informed me that he had about one hundred acres of land which had been cleared, and produced good crops, that he had left to grow up again to wood, and which is now covered with a fine growth of young trees, much of it juniper, which to his children, will be a valuable property. Mr. Hammatt, it would seem, is desirous that his splendid farm may be "ancestral acres" to his children, and grand-children.

On a beautiful spot in his field, is his family cemetery, where repose the ashes of his parents, brothers, wife, and some of his children. This sacred spot will of course be endeared to those who will survive him, and make them desirous of transmitting to their children the inheritance of their fathers.

HON. PHINEAS TOLMAN.

Higher up on the north bank of the Piscataquis, in Milo, is the home and farm of this gentleman, which is entirely interval. It is a part of one of the excellent intervals of Maine, of some five hundred acres. Mr. Tolman has some twenty-five acres under improvement—twenty-five is constantly kept in tillage land.

He cuts annually from fifty to sixty tons of hay, raises, some years, 1000 bushels of grain, keeps twenty-five head of cattle, and six horses. The farm is beautiful for situation, having a splendid growth of hard wood in the rear upon the river, and although I did not go over it, I consider as I passed along, from the appearance of buildings and improvements, that Mr. Tolman is one of the men who makes something by farming.

On the same interval are two other excellent farms, owned by Messrs. Mayo and Snow, who have only to "speed the plow," and bountiful crops will crown their lovely acres. I wish they could "afford" to take the *Maine Farmer*. S.

For the Maine Farmer.

PLASTER, AND THE WAY TO APPLY IT.

Mr. Editor:—Plaster should be ground fine and kept dry. It should be sown on grass lands in the spring, after the grass is from four to six inches high. The use of plaster consists in supplying sulphuric acid to dissolve the vegetable carbon, or leaf-mould, collected on the surface, and is more effective in a dry than wet season.

Plaster should not be put in the hill. Because a small part will be dissolved the first season, and if it could be, would give an unnatural stimulus to the roots. If one-fourth of a gill should be put into a hill of potatoes or corn, it would require four gallons of water to dissolve it; and if not dissolved, it produces no effect.

Try an Experiment. Manure a piece of land for potatoes or corn, and on one-half put the usual quantity of plaster in the hill, and on the other half put the same quantity in the following manner: When the potato tops are about half grown, take a common tin cullender that will hold about three gills, and take up about one gill at a time and sift over the tops and hill—scattering it as much as possible. At harvest, note the difference in the product. If the season should be dry, and the potato tops present a yellow, sickly appearance, a very marked difference, a great change for the better, will be observable on that part of the field on which the plaster was applied above ground, in a few days.

All crops may, at times, be benefited by an application of plaster—in dry seasons, or in a dry time; in a wet one, wheat, oats, barley and other crops presenting a yellow, sickly appearance, indicate that they lack carbon. By sowing one bushel of plaster to the acre, even as late as when the grain is in blossom, ten or twenty times the cost may be realized in the crops.

Plaster should not be mixed with manure. Because manure is composed, when dry, of nearly pure carbon, and the active element of plaster is sulphuric acid—two elements as antagonistic as well can be. Heat results from the contact of carbon and sulphuric acid, even when the acid is diluted with 499 parts of water to one of acid. It should be applied, therefore, to the roots of plants (living carbon) with knowledge, judgment and care.

Plaster will do no good to some soils. Because some soils contain an excess of the sulphate of iron (copperas), and the water being at all times highly charged with acid, the vegetable carbon is rapidly set free, leaving the land cold, sour and barren. Caustic lime is the proper remedy for soils of this kind. It should be applied to the soil and thoroughly mixed with it. Lime should never be mixed with manure before being applied to land. When applied to land containing an excess of acid, it absorbs the acid and neutralizes the excess. Applied to manure, it absorbs carbon, which is seldom in excess, and thereby robs the crop of one of its most important elements—organization.

PHILIP MORRILL.
Glenburn, April 21, 1860.

For the Maine Farmer.

SHEEP.

Mr. Editor:—In No. 9 of the *Farmer*, Mr. Pearl gives us some excellent views upon the subject of sheep husbandry. He says that "we ought to raise four or five times as many of these animals as we do at present." Undoubtedly it would be good policy to increase the number of the flocks in our State at least to a very considerable extent, still we think that the highest attainable should be paid to the raising of other stock. Our State is destined to become celebrated as a stock-growing region—for its beef, and for its butter and cheese. Our incomparable grass crops will, at no distant day, make our agriculture what we desire it to be—a source of prodigious wealth and prosperity.

But your correspondent justly intimates that "we domestic animals admit of more rapid improvement than sheep," and then he complains that "none are ordinarily more neglected—none in which the best specimens for breeding are so ruthlessly cut off."

One reason why sheep admit of more rapid improvement than most other animals is, that they grow up to maturity in a very short space of time; hence a more rapid advancement may be produced in their qualities, if the process be rightly conducted.

Your correspondent asks, what are the best breeds? and then very properly observes, that "this question will be answered variously till experiments have been more fairly made."

In selecting specimens for breeding, a number of points should undoubtedly be considered—such as the fineness and quantity of fleece, size of the animal, its fattening properties, &c. Some regard should be had to the constitution of the animals, expense of keep, &c. And, in fine, a regard should be had to the demands of the farmer and the wants of the manufacturer. Perhaps it may prove to be for the interest of the farmers not to be confined to a single breed of sheep. But we think that vast improvements may be made in this business in a very short period of time. Nothing is wanting but a diligent inquiry and a well directed union of action on the part of our agriculturists.

It is thought that removing sheep from one part of the country to another—say, from the seaboard to the interior—is attended with fine results. To continue the practice of occasionally importing new supplies of these animals from foreign countries, may also be attended with high advantages. Every farmer should endeavor to obtain the most profitable breed or breeds of this animal that can be procured. But proper care and management cannot be too highly recommended. Experience proves, that by care and attention, a gradual improvement, year after year, may be effected. Without good keeping and the right management, the best breeds of sheep will undoubtedly deteriorate.

One object of immense importance, is to make judicious selections from the flock of those animals that are to be kept for breeders. The course pursued by some farmers has been to winter miserable old sheep, and also to sell the most promising among their ewe lambs to the butcher. We should think that "common sense" alone would be sufficient to correct these unthrifty practices.

The farmer who keeps sheep, should have prepared a warm shelter, in which there should be a rack to prevent the waste of fodder, and boxes nicely constructed to prevent waste of provender. There should be an open yard, contiguous to the shelter, so that each animal can have the benefit of pure air at pleasure. A proper quantity of salt and an easy access to pure water are necessary in order to promote the thrift of these animals. Clover hay, which was early cut and well cured, is excellent for sheep. We say, give the animals as much as they will eat up clean. Ruta-bagas is a superior feed for sheep, and a supply of this root may be very easily raised.

We think that in our climate the lambs should not be dropped till about the 10th of May. It may be that some farmers run into error by keeping too large a flock. Undoubtedly, twenty-five or thirty sheep, well kept and managed with care and skill, will yield a greater profit than a flock of one hundred with ordinary management. Some good writers contend that a farmer who keeps quite a large number of sheep should divide them off into separate flocks.

JOHN E. ROLFE.

Rumford, Feb., 1860.

THE CRANBERRY.

Mr. J. C. Young of Lakeland, N. I., read a paper before the Farmers' Club of New York, in which he says:

"I think that my operations and the operations of my neighbors have demonstrated that—The cranberries will grow and do well, though the vines be taken directly from the swamps; That they will grow upon upland, and immediately upon its being broken up; Without manure; Without a wet subsoil; Without artificial irrigation; With but moderate amount of labor; Producing a good-sized, deep-colored, well-matured and highly-flavored berry; and that in dollars and cents the returns are sufficient to induce many to follow the example set before them."

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN MILKING. Careful experiments showed that the stripplings, or the last half pint of milk drawn from the cow, contains more cream than twelve times the same quantity taken from the first part of the same milking. In some of the experiments, the proportion was considerably greater.

CEREES AND POMONA.

They leave no sting in the heart of Memory, no stain on the wing of Time.—Hon. M. P. Wilder.
Brown Ceres, one day, with Pomona was meeting
"Neath Autumn's spirit smiles;
So giving each other a sisterly greeting,
They sat down to gossip awhile.

"I hope you're quite well, dear, this elegant weather,
How charming the country," they said,
"And how do you prosper," both speaking together,
"With regard to your business and trade?"

"Look where the rude thorn bush and bramble were
springing.
With fruitage the apple tree binds,
The sythe of the mower at sunrise is swinging,
And the song of the reaper ascends.
Let us walk hand in hand, for no obstacle caring,
Till vines o'er the mountains shall grow;
Its suit of green velvet, the brown heath be wearing,
And deserts with plenty o'erflow.

"The gold in its mine, with excitement and wonder,
May summon an emigrant band,
And the chariot of Mars trample on its thunder,
But we're the true strength of the land.

"For us no form, in her cottage, is grieving;
Each welcome as both in her prime,
No sting in the bosom of Memory we're leaving,
No stain on the pinion of Time."

For the Maine Farmer.

SUPERFLUOUS FENCING.

Mr. Editor:—I admire the views of your correspondent, as to dispensing with superfluous fencing on our farms. I have seen this practically illustrated, on the well cultivated grounds of the Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Quincy, Mass.—a man who imbued his notions of farming from Dexter, Lowell, and Parsons, and others of like intelligence. The only fences that meet the eye, on his grounds, are self-sustaining hedges of evergreen, by the wayside, which, instead of being offensive to the sight, are decidedly ornamental. And why are not these sufficient, so long as all cattle are restrained within their proper limits? A man has no more right to suffer his cattle to enter and range over your field, than he has to drive his team in the same direction. If a man should presume to drive his loaded team, day after day, through your mowing field, with no pretence of right of way there, if you had any spunk at all, you would soon be after him. The same rule should be applied to his wayward, and damaging cattle. Because men have, time out of mind, been accustomed to fence on the borders of roads or highways, it is no reason whatever, why they should continue to do so.

By law, division fences are to be erected between land of different owners, unless an agreement can be entered into to the contrary; but there is no law, to my knowledge, requiring a fence on the borders of the highway. And if land-holders with you, are as grasping in their disposition as some heretofore, they will be careful in a short time, to obtain a title to all that joins them.

Pardon these hasty scribbles—they occurred to mind on the perusal of your excellent paper of April 26th, No. 19, of Vol. 28.

We are all in the ends, by the prevalence of disease among the cattle, in our best farming towns. How to stop it, we know not. Can't you Doctors tell? Nothing has ever equalled this destruction, within my memory.

Very truly yours,

J. W. PROCTOR.

Essex County, Mass., April 27th, 1860.

WORK ABOUT THE DOOR-YARD.

A good deal of cleaning up is necessary in the spring, everywhere. The farmer's wife knows this, and attends to her duty in this respect in the house. Scrubbing paint, and white-washing walls, and cleaning windows is laborious work, but it is done, and done well. But, to see a woman in the door-yard of a farmer's house, with a rake and shovel, cleaning up the chips, and sawdust, &c., and carrying them into the side road of some out-of-the-way place, is an outrage upon humanity—a slander upon our civilization. Clean up the yards while you have time, and rake into a pile the sawdust, chips, &c., that you have accumulated during the winter. If you had some corner in a shed, where you could place it under cover, and get the women to throw all the waste water from the house upon it, by the fall it would make a manure pile as rich as guano, without any outlay, except a little good sense. If the pile is not large enough to absorb all the waste from the house, add a load of peaty-muck, or any old turf, or even common soil. In this way a nuisance is turned into money; for nothing looks more slovenly than an untidy door-yard.

By all means fence off a spot for a vegetable garden, and for the smaller fruits, such as peas, beans, radishes, currants, strawberries, and so on. There is no reason why the farmer should not live like a prince. He works hard in the most useful of all vocations, and is entitled to as many of the luxuries of life as anybody, and can have them with a little care. And if you should spade up the front yard, or a portion of it, so that the mothers and daughters could plant some flower seeds, if it were only a few asters, or balsams, or sweet peas, and a cluster of morning glories, to climb over the stoop, nobody would be any poorer, and some folks you love would be a great deal happier.—*Rural New Yorker*.

THE DAIRY.

TO KEEP BUTTER FRESH. The *Farm Journal*, a German paper, published at Allentown, Pennsylvania, says that butter will remain fresh and sweet for six months, and even longer, if prepared in the following manner:—Take butter as it comes from the churn, and wash the butter milk thoroughly out of it, then dry the surface of the butter with a clean cloth, break into small pieces and pack it solid into a crock. The air must be entirely expelled. Set the crock in a kettle half filled with water, then place the kettle over the fire until the water boils. While boiling remove from the fire, and let the crock remain in the water until cold. Then place the crock in a cool place. The object in boiling is to purify the butter and precipitate the milk, which remains in it previous to boiling, to the bottom of the crock.

SALT FOR MILCH COWS. Without the use of salt, the milk becomes scanty and imperfect. The greatest necessity for its use in the spring, when the cows are first turned out to grass. A few experiments in May and June showed that going without salt five days shrunk the milk from one to two per cent. in quantity, and from five to seven per cent. in quality. Later in the season, less difference was observable.

THE DAHLIA.

The Dahlia is a tuberous-rooted plant, a native of Mexico, and was first brought to England about the beginning of this century. The flower was single, of a purple color, and did not possess much beauty. The florists' arts have been brought into requisition, and the result is, that innumerable varieties of almost every possible color except blue, have been produced. The flowers are certainly superb, being perfectly symmetrical in shape, rich in color, but without fragrance.

They may be propagated by seeds, cuttings, or divisions of the roots.



THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1880.

MORE RAILROADS IN MAINE.

In a comparatively new State, like ours, and in an enterprise of internal improvements of a magnitude sufficient to give even a moderate extent of railroad facilities to convenient points of it, extensions and additions of such facilities must from time to time be demanded.

There are two demands at this time made upon the community, and the prospect now is that these demands will be responded to and the new roads called for soon be put into a course of construction.

These are the extension of the Androscoggin road from Leeds Junction to Bath, by the way of Topham. The other is the starting of the Aroostook Railroad from Bangor to Mottawamuskeag point. The first named enterprise is not so much called for on account of any want of access from the territory it occupies, to tide water, but from a disagreement (which we do not understand) with the Androscoggin and Kennebec road, over which it has hitherto had a communication with the Grand Trunk and thence to Portland. To obviate this trouble, the proposition is to continue its line from Leeds Junction to Topham, and thence by the Bath Railroad to the city of Bath. The citizens of Bath have had a meeting and readily voted to pledge the credit of the city to a large amount, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of the road to the point above named.

We do not allude to this to censure or find fault with our Gardner friends, but rather to illustrate the idea which we wish to enforce upon our readers, that the "ounce of prevention is worth more than the pound of cure," even where the pound of cure can be obtained, which is not always the case. In manufacturing places, where many, and often large, buildings are placed very near to each other, and especially where the buildings are of wood, and sheds, dryhouses and piles of lumber are all huddled together in close contact, the danger of fire is very great, and the probability of an extensive destruction of property, if once on fire, is still greater, unless the proper precautions be taken for preventing its spreading by being prepared at all times to apply the extinguisher.

Our citizens were aroused a few years since, by a calamity similar to that which has unfortunately befallen our neighbors, but it is to be feared that it was not sufficiently heeded. Unfortunately the buildings erected were built in a manner far more secure than those which preceded them, but all the precautions which wisdom dictated were not, and have not yet been taken for the preservation of the large amount of property upon the dam. The cotton mill is well provided with a force-pump and outside hose and hydrants for every story, and could soon drop out a fire; but the upper buildings have no such security, without which, in a great degree, "the watchman waketh but in vain." The bare saving of insurance would soon cover the expense, though that should be no hindrance, as a few hundreds of dollars are of little moment when compared with the great value at stake.

We have no doubt that there are many manufacturing places where the word of caution is needed, and which should give heed to the warning declared by the late catastrophe at Gardiner. Will they do it? Neither should it be lost upon any whose property is exposed to like destruction, nor upon municipal corporations. The voice has come to us of late with frequent repetitions from abroad, and it is not wise to neglect its reiterated warnings.

Our own city has several convenient reservoirs, but has it provided all that are required? Is there not one vacancy, at least, which should be filled at once? Are our engines and our engine companies all ready to do service, if called upon at any moment? Be it remembered, that in the matter of fires, especially, the "ounce of prevention is worth more than the pound of cure."

CHARLESTON CONVENTION. Though our line of duty leads us in more peaceful fields than those of politics, and though debauched by choice and profession from using our columns for political purposes, yet we have given to our subscribers, as was their due, as matter of interesting news, the proceedings of the Democratic Convention recently held at Charleston. We propose to keep our readers posted, in like manner, both as to the Baltimore and Chicago Conventions, and the adjourned Democratic Convention, as they come off.

We are unable to give the names of the democratic nominees, as we had expected, for the reason that the democracy were unable to give them to us and to the country. By the rule of the former Conventions, governing that at Charleston, a vote of two-thirds was required to nominate. Mr. Douglas received the vote of a majority of the whole Convention, but not the two-thirds (202), and no other person received more than 66 votes. After fifty-seven ballots, a portion of the delegates having previously seceded, it became apparent that under the existing state of things, no person could receive the requisite number, and so the Convention adjourned to meet at Baltimore on the 18th of next month.

Meanwhile, there will be an opportunity for a breathing spell after the excitement, and for cool reflection and consultation with their constituents on the part of the several delegates.

The seceding delegates bolted because they were not satisfied with the re-affirmation of the Cincinnati Platform adopted by the party four years ago, and undertook to set up in business for themselves. They did not, however, agree among themselves, and finally adjourned sine die without even attempting a nomination.

The existence of political parties is necessary to the well-being of the country. That differences of opinion should exist, it is to be expected; that they should be found, in some degree, even among those belonging to the same party, is not surprising; and it is to be hoped and believed, that generally in these collisions of sentiment, Truth is in the end the conqueror.

The season of political excitement and warfare is just beginning once more for the Presidential campaign. Without participating, in the least, in the contest, and, as heretofore, carefully excluding from our columns everything of a party character, we shall still endeavor to keep our readers as far posted, as to the various political events of importance which may transpire in the country, as the limits assigned to us by our neutrality will permit.

CATALOGUE. Mr. John W. Adams of Portland has forwarded to us a catalogue of trees and plants cultivated and for sale by him. Mr. A. has a large nursery containing every variety of fruit and plum trees, and plants and vines, both useful and ornamental, adapted to this climate. Apples, pear, plum and cherry trees; gooseberry, blackberry, raspberry and currant bushes; grapevines and flowering shrubs of all kinds may be obtained by sending orders to him, at moderate prices. All trees and plants sent to a distance will be carefully packed.

NOTICE. Mr. JAMES STURGIS will call upon subscribers to the *Maine Farmer* in Washington county during the present month.

THE OUNCE OF PREVENTION.

We may regard it as one of the characteristics of human nature to suffer many things which are known to be right, proper and wise as precautionary measures, to lie dormant in the mind, and remain undone, day after day, and year after year, simply because the immediate pressure is not felt to be great, and the danger does not seem directly imminent. Occasionally a great calamity, growing out of such neglect upon the part of some one man, or community, will arouse others to a sense of their duty, and to a full perception of a similar exposure upon their own part; but unless this awakening produce immediate action, the effort soon passes away, and they settle down as before in a half-quiet security, knowing the right and yet pursuing the wrong—hoping that as they have hitherto escaped, they may continue for the future free from the calamities to which, as they will not deny, they are continually exposed, and which are frequently falling upon those about them.

The late destructive fire at Gardiner, is one of those incidents which startle and arouse such persons as are interested in property situated similarly to that destroyed, and they should see to it that its effect is not suffered to be only momentary and productive of no good. It is but a few years since a severe fire occurred upon the very spot of the late one, though not so disastrous in its results, and then it was that the necessity of guarding against the possibility, or at least, probability, of such another devastation was felt, but the prevention was not taken. With a full of water of over one hundred feet within a mile above the dam, no reservoir, with pipes and hydrants, was provided, nor were even force-pumps put in to be propelled by water—either of which might have been done and the expense saved in this difference in insurance, to say nothing of the saving of the property itself.

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EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE NEW AMERICAN CYCLOPEDIA: A Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge. Edited by Geo. Ripley and Cass. T. Dana. Vol. IX. Haynes—Jersey City. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

It is scarcely necessary now to do more than announce the appearance of the successive volumes of this great, and comprehensive work. It fills a place which is occupied by no other work, forming a complete and popular manual of general reference, and has become not only of almost indispensable value to professional literary men, but is or ought to be equally necessary in the library of the general reader, the lawyer, the clergyman, the merchant, the mechanic, and the farmer.

Vol. IX. ranges from "Haynes" to "Jersey City," embracing articles upon History, Geography, Biography, Agriculture, Science, the Arts, &c., of the very highest interest and importance. Among the living characters of whom biographies are given, are J. T. Bradley, Geo. P. A. Hawley, (the artist), Sir John F. W. Herschel, Rev. Edward Hitchcock, J. G. Holland, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Harriet Martineau, Sam Houston, Dr. S. G. Howe, Ball Hughes, Wm. and Mary B. Howitz, Archbishop Hughes, Victor Hugo, Rev. F. D. Huntington, R. M. T. Hunter, Chas. F. Jackson, G. P. R. James, &c. &c.

The work is sold by subscription at \$3 per volume in cloth; in library leather, \$3.50; in half Turkey, \$4; half Russia, \$4.50; full Morocco, antique, gilt, \$5.50; full Russia, \$5.50.

CASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED FAMILY BIBLE, is now in process of publication at London and New York, in numbers, by Cassell, Peter & Galpin.

We have received the first four numbers. It is in quarto form, and illustrated by engravings executed by a skillful hand, and admirably calculated to convey to the reader a correct idea of the manners, customs and art of the ancient people described or alluded to. It also depicts the ruins and monuments of antiquity, and elucidates the chief events of Scripture in a faithful manner. It has also copious notes, unobtrusive in character, filled with useful information.

The work is to be comprised in forty-eight numbers, of thirty-two pages each, at 15 cents a number. It has a large subscription in Great Britain, and is well worthy of attention in this country.

CASSELL'S POPULAR NATURAL HISTORY. The enterprising publishers of the "Illustrated Family Bible," are also publishing semi-monthly, a fully illustrated work on Natural History. The numbers contain most excellent cuts of the various animals of creation, and of the distinct species of each race belonging to animated nature, together with well written descriptions of each, as to their structure, instincts, and localities. Four volumes of twelve parts each, will complete the work, the price of each part being fixed at 15 cents. London and New York, by Cassell, Peter & Galpin.

ECLECTIC MAGAZINE for May, has the following list of contents: Life and Works of Wm. Cowper; Fossil Footprints; Children's Literature; Sketches of Macaulay; Tennyson's Poetry; Ocean Geography of the Drift; Victor Hugo's Legend of the Ages; Baedre Rington; Revolutions in English History; First Arctic Expedition to the North West; Vuvued the Dane; London in the Olden Time; Erasmus as a Satirist; Brunel and Stephenson; Richard III. and the Duke of Buckingham; Biographical Sketch of Louis XVI.; Progress of Science and Art; Literary Miscellanies.

This number contains also two fine engravings—Richard III. and Buckingham, and Louis XVI. threatened by the Mob. The May number comprises a new year and may therefore a good time to subscribe for this excellent periodical.

BLACKWOOD. The April number of this Magazine contains the following articles: Wellington's Career; Lady Hamilton; Our Position with China; Statist Mater; History of Europe from 1815 to 1852; Alison; Norman Sinclair, An Autobiography—Part I.; Poetic Alterations; The Rules of the Land; Our Worthy Friend Nap; What we have done for the Princes of India; Parliamentary Duelling.

NEW MUSIC. We have received from the Music publishing house of Russell & Tolman, 201 Washington street, Boston, the following pieces of piano forte music:

Rosalie, the Prairie Flower—From Gathered Leaves, by Geo. F. Root. Transcribed for the piano by Adolph Baumbach.

Barcarolle de Weber. For the piano forte. By J. A. Pachet.

The Old Cabin Home. By Adolph Baumbach. Can Hope no longer Smile. Duetto. From Gems from the German and Italian Opera. By M. Carofa.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. During the session of the Board of Agriculture last winter, we prepared full reports which we gave to our readers. Some of our subscribers, though a few only, found fault with us for devoting so much space to these discussions. We thought then that we were giving a great deal of useful information in this way, and our view has since been confirmed by the fact that scarcely an agricultural exchange has since come to us from any of the several States that has not contained some extracts from our reports. The good work thus done has not been confined to the limits of our own State, but the utility of the Board, and of their reported discussions, has been widely felt and acknowledged in distant fields of agricultural labor.

FRESH GRAPES. Mr. Joseph Piper of this city, brought us on Friday, last some Isabella grapes, raised by him last season and put down in cordons for keeping through the winter. When the fruit had ripened before putting down, they came out of their long imprisonment with skin full and plump, and the pulp fresh and luscious to the taste; the unripe berries were indicated by a dried and shriveled appearance. Mr. P. informs us that he has already sold this spring most of the grapes put down by him in this manner. We have no doubt that our grape growers in Maine may do a profitable business in this way—care being taken to select fruit for the purpose that is perfectly ripe.

EXPLOSION. A sudden alarm occurred, a day or two since in one of the rooms of the cotton mill of the Kennebec Company in consequence of the bursting out of three or four of the cylinder heads by reason of some defect in the condenser. The steam rushed out, scattering the pieces of the heads, but fortunately no person was hit. There were several girls employed in the room at the time, one of whom was somewhat scalded, but not seriously.

EARLY APPARATUS. We feasted on Monday, for the first time this season, upon asparagus from the garden of our venerable friend Rev. J. H. Ingraham, of this city. We hardly think many editors in this latitude have been so highly favored. Mr. Ingraham informs us that he has been having it from his garden during the fortnight past.

WE regret to learn that GEORGE S. MULLIKEN, Esq., formerly of this city, died in Texas on the 12th of last month, after a protracted illness. He removed to that State, with his family, during the last year, for his health, but was soon after stricken down by the fatal disease.

CHARLESTON CONVENTION.

EIGHTH DAY. (Tuesday) The Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina delegations were in their seats.

Mr. Benning of Ga., stated that the delegates of that State had been in consultation, and concluded to withdraw, which they did, in part.

The Arkansas delegation presented a protest, and then withdrew, in part.

Mr. Cohen of Ga., one of the remaining delegates, addressed the Convention.

Mr. Flournoy of Ark., thought his Southern friends had acted wrong and would not be sustained by their constituents.

Mr. Boulton of Ga., believed protection to slavery in the territories a mere abstraction, and was unwilling to disintegrate the democratic party on that account.

Mr. Seward of Ga., expressed similar views. After further debate, and the adoption of the rule requiring 202 votes to nominate, the balloting commenced.

On the first ballot, Douglas received 154, Hunter 42, Guthrie 364, Johnson 12, scattering 17. Total 233.

Twelve ballots, in all, took place—upon the last of which the vote stood, Douglas 1504, Guthrie 394, Hunter 38, Johnson 12, scattering 114. Total 2514.

The highest ballot thrown was 253.

NINTH DAY. (Guthrie's Band played Yankee Doodle just before the opening of the Convention, which, on the proposition of Mr. Flournoy of Ark., was responded to by three cheers for the Union. The galleries were filled with ladies.)

The Convention proceeded to ballot, and with substantially the same result as on the 12th—for several ballots, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa voting entire for Douglas, who received 34 from Maryland, 44 from Missouri, 3 from Minnesota, and the balance from divided Northern delegations. On the 23d ballot, Virginia and North Carolina gave him 1. After the 34th ballot, the Convention adjourned to 5 P. M.

Upon again convening, and after one ballot was had, Mr. Gittings of Md., moved that the Convention adjourn to meet at Baltimore on the first Monday in June. Mr. Randall of Penn., moved to amend by adjournment sine die. Both rejected.

Ballotings were continued, up to the 57th, which stood, Douglas 1514, Guthrie 654, Hunter 15. Line 16, Dickinson 2, Davis 1.

The Convention then adjourned to Thursday.

TENTH DAY. The resolution to meet at Baltimore was adopted by a vote of 195 to 55.

Mr. Stewart of Mich., moved to adjourn. Gen. Spratt proposed three cheers for the National Democratic Party, which were enthusiastically given.

The President, Mr. Cushing, addressed the Convention.

Mr. Brandt of Md., extended a cordial reception to the Convention at Baltimore.

A motion to suspend the order for balloting was carried, 199 to 51. A point of order having been raised as to the passage of the vote to adjourn to Baltimore.

The motion was renewed—that when this Convention adjourns it be to meet at Baltimore on the 18th of June next, in order to afford States that are not represented an opportunity to fill up their delegations.

Motions to substitute Philadelphia, and New York, were rejected.

The resolution then passed, 188 to 66.

At 1 P. M., the delegates left in crowds for home. The adjournment was said to be effected by the Douglas party under instructions from Washington.

Seceders' Convention.

MAY 1. The seceding delegates met in Convention, John C. Preston of S. C., presiding. Mr. Bayard of Del., was made permanent Chairman.

Sundry speeches were made, but no definite action taken.

MAY 2. The Platform of the Majority of the Committee of the National Convention (rejected by that Convention) was adopted.

The proposition to take the name of the "Constitutional Democracy," was, after debate, voted down.

The organization was completed by appointment of committees, &c.

Messrs. Yancey and Barry made speeches for the benefit of the ladies present.

MAY 3. About forty delegates present.

A motion was pending that the Convention express a preference for candidates for President and Vice President, which was, after discussion, withdrawn.

Mr. Meek of Ala., moved that a committee be appointed to prepare an address giving the reasons for the course pursued by the seceders.

Mr. Jackson of Ga., moved to adjourn sine die.

Mr. Hill of Ga., said if the object was to make this a disunion movement, he and his delegation would withdraw.

Messrs. Yancey, Meek, and a South Carolina delegate denied that disunion sentiments had been uttered in the Convention.

Mr. Jackson said if the rights of the South were to be sacrificed, he was for Liberty first and the Union afterwards.

Mr. Whitley of Del., moved an adjournment.

Mr. Barry of Miss., thought they were still delegates and should go to Baltimore.

The President—Oh no! That will not do.

Mr. Hooker of Miss., said: We are no longer delegates to that Convention—we have separated from them on a principle.

Mr. Jackson offered a substitute for Mr. Meek's motion, that all who waver as to the action of the seceding delegates meet them in Washington on the 2d Monday in June.

Mr. Bayard left the chair, addressed the Convention, declined his office, took his hat and left, and Mr. Scott of Ala., was chosen President.

Mr. Meek withdrew his motion.

Mr. Jackson offered a resolution for a Southern Convention at Richmond, Va., on the 2d Monday of June next. Adopted, with five or six dissenting votes.

A resolution providing for an address, was then adopted and the Convention adjourned sine die.

KENNEBEC HORSES IN DEMAND. Our neighbor C. G. Jackson, of Wintthrop, sold a couple of horses last week for the very comfortable sum of \$1,800. They were not matched horses, but they had the 2,40 in them. They both took premiums at the last State Fair as trotters.

NEW WASHING MACHINE. Our readers are referred to the advertisement of the Eureka Washing Machine, which seems to be a great improvement upon any former invention for the amelioration of the condition of washer-women. A model of the machine can be seen at this office.

LARGE Calf. Mr. V. Deoster writes us that he had a grade Durham bull calf dropped April 4, weighing, when 4 hours old, 113 lbs. Its color is a dark red, and very handsome. It doesn't quite come up with some of our Kennebec specimens, recently mentioned in the *Farmer*.

SINGING MEETING. A meeting of those interested in the practice of vocal music, old and young, will be held on Thursday evening next, at the Hall over Nason & Hamilton's. Mr. Geo. W. Lancaster will have the direction of the meeting.

THE COMING FOURTH.

The anniversary of our independence is now drawing near, and while we see other towns and cities making preparations for celebrating the day in a suitable manner, shall Augusta do honor to the day in the same way, or shall we keep on in the trodden path which we have followed for the last twenty years, and leave our neighbors to regard the day, while we stay at home and carelessly and regardlessly of its observance; or shall we celebrate the coming Fourth in a becoming way? We certainly have the material to command.

Our citizens are ready, with willing hands and purses, to help forward the enterprise. Will not our city fathers lend a helping hand? We have a smart and go-ahead band in our midst, who stand ready for all such occasions; while our well-known "Pacific Boys" are brightening up with a new uniform, &c.

We hope this matter will be taken into consideration early in the season, so that ample time may be had to complete all necessary arrangements.

A READER.

We hope, with our correspondent, that our citizens will wake up from their six-year's lethargy, and in co-operation with the city government, do something for an appropriate celebration of the Fourth of July.—Ed.

For the Maine Farmer.

FAT COW. Stephen D. Burgess of Rock Hill in North Norridgewood, slaughtered a cow some two weeks since which weighed, when dressed 1233 lbs.,—yielding 145 lbs. of rough tallow. Her live weight was 1900 lbs. She was 7 years old, and had been dry one year. Her girth one year ago was 6 feet 6 inches; when slaughtered, she measured 7 feet 4 inches. She was a perfect specimen of beauty and of fat.

Mr. Burgess for years has exhibited a good interest in the improvement of stock, and agriculture generally,—manifesting a commendable pride and taste in the matching of his oxen and steers, and the selection of farm stock.

Friend B. deserves, and he undoubtedly has, the gratitude of all the beef eating epicures of Norridgewood for this fat of the land, while his pocket has been replenished with the pretty little sum of \$108, as a reward for his perseverance and enterprise. I say enterprise and perseverance, for it is no easy matter to increase the size of a single animal ten inches in fat alone. Who so will do likewise shall receive a like reward.

V.

So, Norridgewood, May 5th, 1860.

KENDALL & WHITNEY'S AGRICULTURAL WORKS. Agricultural warehouses in Maine in years past have had rather a hard drag of it. Although Maine farmers were under the necessity of purchasing a great many implements annually, and although we had, and still have several manufacturers of agricultural implements within our borders, the habit which our people were brought up of 'sending to Boston' for almost everything, induced them to pass by those who had embarked in the enterprise at home and purchase abroad.

We are glad to notice a change in this custom, and to find, as we did the other day, that Kendall & Whitney, of Portland, have now one of the largest and best filled stores of the kind in New England, and that they are well patronized and have a good run of home trade. This is right, for they deserve it. Prompt, active, and energetic in their business,—always on the alert to keep the best of implements and seeds and supplies which farmers need, they deserve the confidence and trade of the farmers in Maine who may wish to get their money's worth of whatever they may buy. We commend them to the farmers of Maine, and we commend the farmers of Maine to them. Let the confidence be reciprocal, and all parties will directly, and the State indirectly, reap the benefit of it.

We say this, because we have recently taken the liberty of looking over their establishment, and have been a customer to them, and have never yet been disappointed in the quality of the seed, article, or implement obtained of them.

WAR OF WORDS. Amid the various elements of strife, sectarian, political, pugilistic, &c., &c., we have to record the fierce contest now waged between the rival Dictionaries, Worcester and Webster. In behalf of the former, we have received a pamphlet entitled "The Critic Criticized," in which the writer shows lustily the superiority of Worcester. Without taking sides in the contest, we may say that it has seemed to us that the champions of Webster have treated Worcester with a severity unequalled for and unjust. We call the attention of our readers to the endorsement of the latter by men of the highest character and learning, and we may add that Worcester's Quarto Dictionary is now the standard of orthography in the printing departments at Washington. This warfare is indeed a clash of argument, and far of words, but it is safe to assert that whoever buys Worcester's Quarto will get an excellent work, and the worth of his money.

WHALE OIL. The introduction of lard oil, burning fluid, and coal oil has so diminished the demand for whale oil as to seriously interfere with the business of New Bedford, and the merchants of that city have held a meeting to devise means to restore it to its former popularity and price. A new lamp has been invented by which it is said, a greater amount of light may be obtained from whale oil than from any other source at the same cost, and the inventor wants \$10,000 to carry out his plan for its introduction. A committee was appointed "to collect the amount of subscriptions and appropriate to the same as they may deem for the interests herein involved, namely, to promote and increase the consumption and use of whale oil."

SUSPICIONS. Bro. Knight of the Bridgton Reporter says:

"We found this (Wednesday) morning, a beautiful May-basket, filled with rare wild flowers, hanging upon our office-door. Thanks to the giver. (We take it for granted that it was the gift of some young lady.)"

Such a circumstance presents a case of "(K)night-errantry" which should be further investigated, as it looks a little suspicious for both parties.

One of our Augusta artists, Eastman Johnson, is at work upon the "Kitchen of Mount Vernon," which will be a clever delineation of the Wilkie school. This artist has, by his "Old Kentucky Home" gained a first class position as a genre artist.

There are many of his early sketches to be found here, which gave promise of the successful reputation, since acquired by him.

ROOF BEER. Our friend Fiske is promptly in the field this spring, with this excellent and healthful beverage, which he is now engaged in supplying to his customers. He has generously laid a number of bottles on trial with the printers in our office, who are good judges of the article, and their verdict is unanimously in favor of more.

SODA. Our neighbor Kinsman has reasonably opened his Soda fountain, for the especial benefit of those who are suffering from the present dry season, recently

